



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION II
EDISON, NEW JERSEY 08837

POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

COMPLETED

FILE COPY

Site Name: Algen Press

Address: 18-06 130th Street, College Point, NY 11356

County: Queens

EPA I.D. No.: NYD001362375

Summary:

Algen Press is a currently active color lithography printing operation. The company is located in a mixed residential/industrial neighborhood in College Point, Queens. Local residents have complained about various environmental problems at the site including the storage of drums bearing flammable liquid labels, the dumping of chemicals in a large pit behind the building, and water/chemicals flowing constantly from the building into the street. Both the New York City Department of Sanitation and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection have conducted inspections at the site and have found no evidence of illegal dumping. On August 28, 1983 the Department of Sanitation took soil samples from the Algen Press property and delivered them to the Department of Environmental Protection for analysis. The results of the analyses showed only compounds which normally occur through the breakdown of organic matter (grass, leaves, twigs, etc.) and waste oils and greases. An off-site reconnaissance by EPA Region II Environmental Services Division personnel on 7/1/87 did not uncover any imminent environmental hazards. Drums, which appeared to be empty, were scattered behind the building. Other drums were stacked on a cement pad behind a fence. Some of these drums bore flammable liquid labels. The street was wet in front of the Algen Press building, but the liquid appeared to be water.

Priority for Inspection: High ☐
Medium ☐
Low ☒
None ☐

Recommendations:

A site inspection is not recommended as an immediate priority because of the amount of work that the two city agencies have already performed at the site. If and when a site inspection is performed, soil behind and around the Algen Press building should be sampled for organics and metals. If possible, any liquid being discharged from the buildings should be sampled.

Prepared by: Carol Price, Environmental Scientist
U.S. EPA, Environmental Services Division

281221





POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
PART 1 - SITE INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT

I. IDENTIFICATION
01 STATE 02 SITE NUMBER
NY D001362375

II. SITE NAME AND LOCATION

01 SITE NAME (Legal, common, or descriptive name of site) Algen Press		02 STREET, ROUTE NO., OR SPECIFIC LOCATION IDENTIFIER 18-06 130th Street			
03 CITY College Point	04 STATE NY	05 ZIP CODE 11356	06 COUNTY Queens	07 COUNTY CODE 081	08 CONG DIST 6-19
09 COORDINATES LATITUDE 40 46 45. .		LONGITUDE 73 50 20. .			

10 DIRECTIONS TO SITE (Starting from nearest public road)
Belt Parkway East to Van Wyck Expressway. Follow Van Wyck Expressway North to the Whitestone Expressway. Exit the Whitestone Expressway at 20th Ave. Turn left onto 20th Ave. Follow 20th Ave. to 130th Street. Make right and proceed to site.

III. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

01 OWNER (If known) Mr. Lewis Falce		02 STREET (Business, mailing, residence) 18-06 130th Street			
03 CITY College Point	04 STATE NY	05 ZIP CODE 11356	06 TELEPHONE NUMBER (718) 463-4605		
07 OPERATOR (If known and different from owner) Same as above		08 STREET (Business, mailing, residence)			
09 CITY	10 STATE	11 ZIP CODE	12 TELEPHONE NUMBER ()		

13 TYPE OF OWNERSHIP (Check one)

☒ A. PRIVATE ☐ B. FEDERAL: _____ (Agency name) ☐ C. STATE ☐ D. COUNTY ☐ E. MUNICIPAL
☐ F. OTHER: _____ (Specify) ☐ G. UNKNOWN

14 OWNER/OPERATOR NOTIFICATION ON FILE (Check all that apply)

☐ A. RCRA 3001 DATE RECEIVED: ____/____/____ MONTH DAY YEAR ☐ B. UNCONTROLLED WASTE SITE (CERCLA 103 a) DATE RECEIVED: ____/____/____ MONTH DAY YEAR ☐ C. NONE

IV. CHARACTERIZATION OF POTENTIAL HAZARD

01 ON SITE INSPECTION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES DATE 12 / 4 / 81 <input type="checkbox"/> NO MONTH DAY YEAR		BY (Check all that apply) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. EPA <input type="checkbox"/> B. EPA CONTRACTOR <input type="checkbox"/> C. STATE <input type="checkbox"/> D. OTHER CONTRACTOR <input type="checkbox"/> E. LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIAL <input type="checkbox"/> F. OTHER: _____ (Specify) CONTRACTOR NAME(S): _____			
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02 SITE STATUS (Check one)

☒ A. ACTIVE ☐ B. INACTIVE ☐ C. UNKNOWN

03 YEARS OF OPERATION

Unknown Active currently
BEGINNING YEAR ENDING YEAR

04 DESCRIPTION OF SUBSTANCES POSSIBLY PRESENT, KNOWN, OR ALLEGED

The site is a color lithography printing operation. Chemicals associated with the this type of process include caustics and acids used in the plate development process, alcohols, and various organic pigments and solvents found in printing inks. Drums labeled "Flammable Liquid" and "Proxycote Lacquer" were observed on the site.

05 DESCRIPTION OF POTENTIAL HAZARD TO ENVIRONMENT AND/OR POPULATION

There is a possibility of a fire and explosion hazard from the drums stored on site bearing flammable liquid labels. Soil contamination may exist from the alleged dumping of chemicals on-site. Direct contact with chemicals may be a problem because of the close proximity of residential housing, but the drum storage area appears to be fenced.

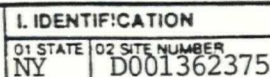
V. PRIORITY ASSESSMENT

01 PRIORITY FOR INSPECTION (Check one. If high or medium is checked, complete Part 2 - Waste Information and Part 3 - Description of Hazardous Conditions and Incidents)

☐ A. HIGH (Inspection required promptly) ☐ B. MEDIUM (Inspection required) ☒ C. LOW (Inspect on time available basis) ☐ D. NONE (No further action needed, complete current disposition form)

VI. INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM

01 CONTACT Diana Messina		02 OF (Agency/Organization) EPA/ESD/SMB/Superfund Support Section		03 TELEPHONE NUMBER (201) 321-6776	
04 PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSESSMENT Carol Price DiGuardia		05 AGENCY EPA	06 ORGANIZATION ESD/SMB/SSS	07 TELEPHONE NUMBER (201) 321-6714	08 DATE 7 / 22 / 87 MONTH DAY YEAR



- ☐ I. HIGHLY VOLATILE
- ☐ J. EXPLOSIVE
- ☐ K. REACTIVE
- ☐ L. INCOMPATIBLE
- ☐ M. NOT APPLICABLE

EPA FORM 2070-12 (7-81)



POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
PART 3 - DESCRIPTION OF HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS

I. IDENTIFICATION
01 STATE NY 02 SITE NUMBER D001362375

II. HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS

01 ☒ A. GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION 0 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE:) ☒ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The potential for groundwater contamination exists if alleged on-site dumping of chemicals has occurred. However, groundwater is not used as a drinking water supply in Queens County.

01 ☐ B. SURFACE WATER CONTAMINATION 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE:) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

01 ☐ C. CONTAMINATION OF AIR 811,276 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE:) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

There is a potential for air contamination with solvents from the lithographic printing process.

01 ☒ D. FIRE/EXPLOSIVE CONDITIONS 138,323 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE:) ☐ POTENTIAL ☒ ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Two fires have allegedly occurred at the Algen Press site (no dates are available). Many of the drums observed on 7/1/87 and in the past bore "Flammable Liquid" labels.

01 ☒ E. DIRECT CONTACT 7288 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE:) ☒ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

There may be a potential for direct contact as the site is very close to residential housing. The drum area appears to be fenced in, but the entire site is not fenced.

01 ☒ F. CONTAMINATION OF SOIL Unknown 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE:) ☒ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
03 AREA POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: (Acres) 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The potential for soil contamination exists if illegal dumping took place. However, soil samples taken by the Department of Sanitation show no signs of chemical contamination.

01 ☐ G. DRINKING WATER CONTAMINATION 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE:) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

01 ☒ H. WORKER EXPOSURE/INJURY Approx. 30 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE:) ☒ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
03 WORKERS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Approximately 30 people work at the Algen Press site and could be affected by the chemicals there.

01 ☒ I. POPULATION EXPOSURE/INJURY 811,276 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE:) ☒ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

A total of 811,276 people live within 4 miles of the Algen Press site and could be affected by air contamination, direct contact with chemicals or a fire at the site.



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PART 3 - DESCRIPTION OF HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS

I. IDENTIFICATION

01 STATE NY 02 SITE NUMBER D001362375

II. HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS (Continued)

01 ☐ J. DAMAGE TO FLORA
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED

01 ☒ K. DAMAGE TO FAUNA
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Include name(s) of species)

02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____) ☐ POTENTIAL ☒ ALLEGED

A dog's paw allegedly became irritated after walking through run-off from the building.

01 ☐ L. CONTAMINATION OF FOOD CHAIN
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED

01 ☒ M. UNSTABLE CONTAINMENT OF WASTES
(Spills/runoff/standing liquids/leaking drums)

02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____) ☐ POTENTIAL ☒ ALLEGED

03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: _____ 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Local residents have observed a stream of liquid coming from the Algen Press building.

01 ☒ N. DAMAGE TO OFFSITE PROPERTY
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____) ☒ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED

There is a potential for damage to nearby residential homes in the event of a fire at the site.

01 ☐ O. CONTAMINATION OF SEWERS, STORM DRAINS, WWTPs
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED

01 ☒ P. ILLEGAL/UNAUTHORIZED DUMPING
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____) ☐ POTENTIAL ☒ ALLEGED

Local residents claim chemicals are dumped in a large open pit at night.

05 DESCRIPTION OF ANY OTHER KNOWN, POTENTIAL, OR ALLEGED HAZARDS

III. TOTAL POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 811,276 people live within 4 miles of the site

IV. COMMENTS

V. SOURCES OF INFORMATION (Cite specific references, e.g., state files, sample analysis reports)

(cont.)

Environmental Aspects of Chemical Use in Printing Operations - Conference Proceedings, EPA Office of Toxic Substances, January 1976